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3.3. Health care

We see the health of citizens as a matter of public interest, source and wealth of society and a condition for quality life, not only as a private interest and property. Any decision on the main questions in health care will be opened to the public at large for democratic discussion.

In the area of health care we intend to draw on European traditions and experience and also on the specific factors of development and the situation in the Czech Republic. We will adjust the legal environment in accordance with the European agreements. We will support the legal protection of patients.

With the rationalization measures we want to prevent the increase of costs and decrease of the quality of the care provided. We stress especially prevention measures and health support. We see the goals of the World Health Organization for the European countries as binding, particularly after achieving more parity in the separate citizen groups as far as health is concerned. Therefore any substantial limitation in its quality of health care in relation to citizens with low income, the ill and the elderly is for us unacceptable. On the other hand we reject the practice of providing funds and services from public funds for the health care if these measures are inordinately costly or do not contribute to the achievement of health and life preservation. The system of remittances to health care providers must be done with a change in their motivation towards an improved economy, dealing with the public funds which result in maintaining a high quality of health care. We would prefer the budgetary funding to be accompanied by a quality control of the care provided in the so-called performance system in an effort to regulate the accessibility of health care by fees and other limiting provisions. The chief source of funding will be the public health insurance. The government will have as its priority the elimination of the existing chaos and caprices in the sector. We will try to carry out the standardization of the accessibility of personal and material equipment and the quality of the care provided.

We will enforce the rationalization of the health care institute network and the concentration of a costly care with their clear position and defined responsibilities. We will devote special attention to rationalization in the area of medicament policy. The accessibility of health care must be guaranteed by law and will be the responsibility of the State and the regional units concerned. We will try to enforce an effective division of the health care institutions into regions, simultaneously preserving the right to freely choose a health care institution. The selection of the institutions to become a part of the network must be impartial, with clear rules and criteria, which can be controlled and objectively reviewed. We will take care of ensuring the accessibility of service and using the qualified personnel even after a possible disqualification of the institution. At the same time we will try to bring health specialists wage rates in relation to average wages nearer to the rates existing in the EU countries.

We will stress the long-term development of care based on the concept of separate branches and on the systematic life-time education of the health specialists.

We will take care of reducing non-effective costs, connected for example with the administration of the public health insurance, and also by way of the fusion of the health and sickness insurances.

We will support the development of using information technologies in health care while at the same time protecting the confidentiality of personal data.

We will improve the conditions of prevention, promoting healthy life styles, rehabilitation, support of healthy living conditions and their control. It is the obligation of the State, not the private interest of individuals.